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# GAIN Report

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## India

### Agricultural Situation

### Monsoon Progress Report No. 4

**2004**

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**Report Highlights:**

There has been a significant revival in the monsoon activity since the week ended August 4, with several of the severely moisture-stressed regions in west, north, and central India receiving copious rains.

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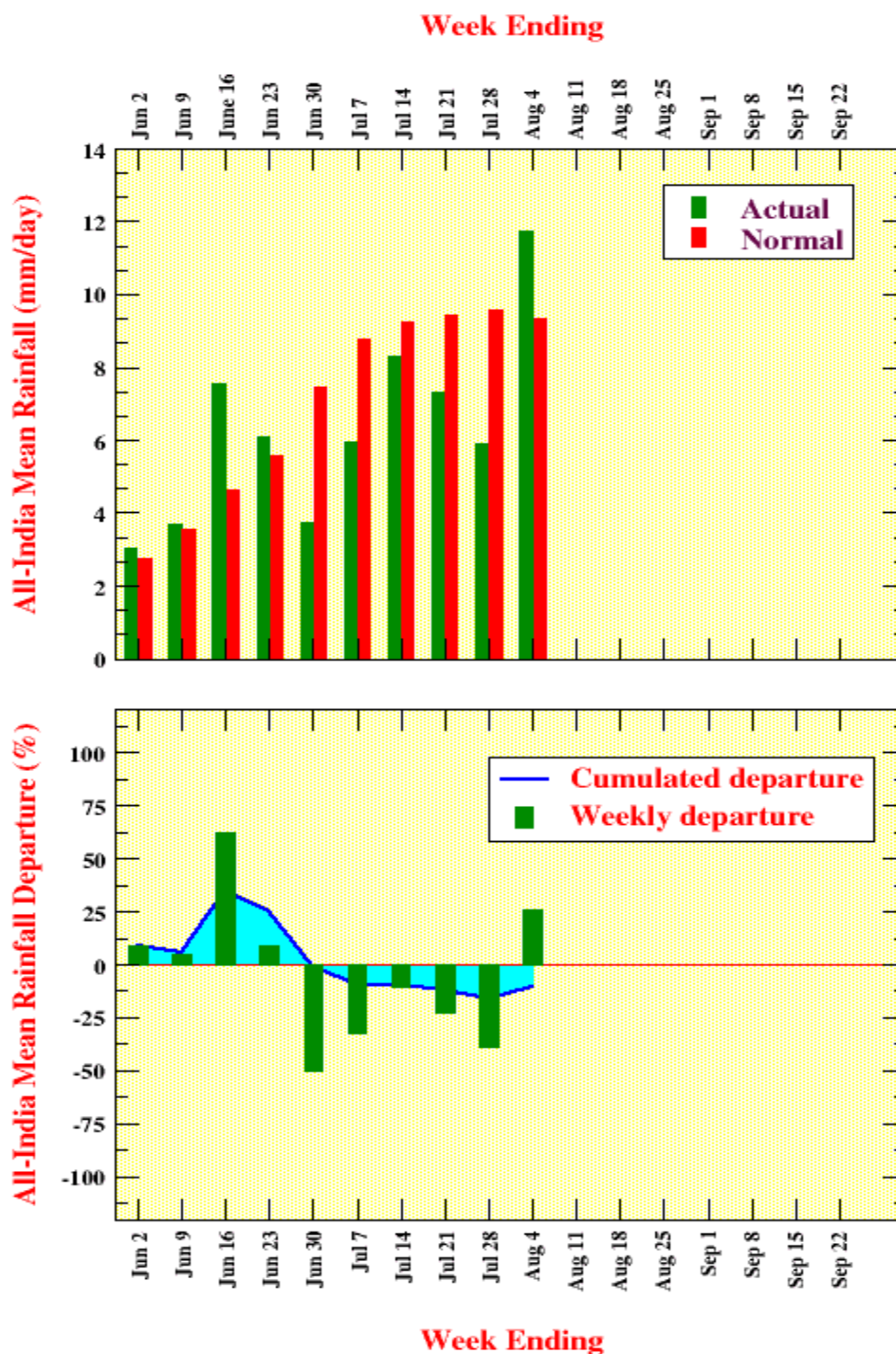
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There has been a significant revival in the monsoon activity since the week ended August 4, with several of the severely moisture-stressed regions in west, north, and central India receiving copious rains. This has reduced the cumulative rainfall deficit for the country to 10 percent from the previous week's 15 percent (see Chart I). Weather subdivisions receiving below normal rainfall has now shrunk to 12 from the previous week's 17, but still significantly higher than the 3 during the corresponding period of last year. Weather subdivisions, where cumulative rainfall during June 1 to August 4 is still significantly below normal (20 percent or more) include West Uttar Pradesh (rice, sugarcane), Rajasthan (millet and pulses), Punjab, Haryana (rice), Jharkand (rice, pulses), West Madhya Pradesh (soybeans), East Madhya Pradesh (rice, coarse grains), Vidarbha (cotton), Coastal Karnataka, Kerala (rice).

Although this week's rain would definitely prove beneficial for the standing crops of soybeans, peanut, cotton, rice, coarse grains, and pulses, it is still unclear whether this would result in a significant revival of the planting operations, particularly rice and coarse grains, as typically the window of opportunity for planting ends by end-July. However, depending on the availability of seeds of short duration varieties of these crops, some additional plantings are likely with probable lower yields.

Progressive planting data by the government through mid-July shows a marginal decline in planted area of rice and cotton, a significant decline in area planted to coarse grains, pulses, and sugarcane, and an increase in the planted area of peanut and soybeans. However, this does not reflect the slowdown in planting following the prolonged drought. Most agricultural experts are of the view that this year's production of most crops will be somewhere in between last year's record or near record production and the drought-reduced output of 2002, when after a long break of five to six week, the monsoon revived only in the second half of August.

Chart I: India: Weekly and Cumulative Rainfall &amp; Departure from Normal



Source: Source: Source: **Monsoon On Line** by David Stephenson, K. Rupa Kumar, and Emily Black at: <http://www.tropmet.res.in/~kolli/MOL/Monsoon/frameindex.html>